

## Center Harbor Broadband Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 7, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER:** At 11:03 a.m. the meeting began. Harry Viens, Gregory Himes, Bernie Volz, Tony Scotto and Leo Dwyer from NHEC were present.

**AGENDA REVIEW:** This meeting was dedicated to a discussion with Mr. Dwyer. There were two topics to be covered; (1) Update & Status of NHEC's Broadband Initiative and (2) Better Understand what the Town of Center Harbor can do to bring NHEC Broadband to the Town.

**MEETING MINUTES:** Mr. Hines motioned to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2022 Broadband Committee as presented to the members electronically. Mr. Volz and Mr. Scotto seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**BACKGROUND:** Mr. Dwyer took the Committee through a series of slides summarizing the NHEC broadband initiative. A few points of interest:

- There are 800 electric coops across the US primarily focused on rural areas
- 300 of the 800 are pursuing broadband as a service offering to their customers
- NHEC has 85,000 electric meters across 119 towns or 13% of the state's population
- NHEC is focused on bringing broadband to the most underserved customers within it's customer base
- Acworth & Sandwich will go live with NHEC broadband by mid-late August

**CONVERSATION SPECIFIC TO CENTER HARBOR:** There was a brief discussion about grant money sources that were leveraged by towns such as Sandwich. The CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act and the RDOF (Rural Digital Opportunity Fund) were two such sources mentioned.

**NEXT STEPS:** The committee will discuss how to identify grant money and possibly pursue funding opportunities. Another priority is to determine if a partnership with another town would be advantageous to the Town of Center Harbor in terms of NHEC broadband rollout prioritization.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 12:10 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Scotto

Secretary